



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY  
LANSING



LIESL EICHLER CLARK  
DIRECTOR

March 20, 2022

TO: All Interested Citizens, Organizations, and Government Agencies

SUBJECT: **DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND (DWSRF)  
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION  
City of Coldwater, Branch County  
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Project Number: 7567-01**

The purpose of this notice is to advise interested parties of a proposed decision by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) that the criteria for qualifying for a Categorical Exclusion are met and this project will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment or public health, and thus, qualifies for a Categorical Exclusion under Section 5408 of 1994 PA 451. Consequently, an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement is not required to implement the water supply project discussed in the attached document.

#### CRITERIA USED IN MAKING THE DETERMINATION

Part 54 of the Safe Drinking Water Assistance Act specifies six exclusionary criteria that must be met before EGLE can conclude that a proposed project qualifies for a Categorical Exclusion. The criteria are as follows:

- (1) The project must not result in an increase in residuals and sludge generated by drinking water processes which would negatively impact the performance of the waterworks system or the disposal methods or would threaten an aquifer recharge zone.*
- (2) The proposed facilities must not be designed to provide service to a population greater than 30 percent of the existing population, unless population projections required in section 5405(3)(e) support projected needs.*
- (3) The proposed public water supply project must not be expected to directly or indirectly affect cultural areas, fauna or flora habitats, endangered or threatened species, or environmentally important natural resource areas.*
- (4) The proposed public water supply project must not directly or indirectly involve the extension of transmission systems to new service areas.*
- (5) The proposed public water supply project has been shown to be the cost-effective alternative.*
- (6) The proposed public water supply project will not cause significant public controversy.*

#### PROJECT DETAIL

An attachment describing the proposed project is provided. This information is also available on our website at [Michigan.gov/DWSRF](https://Michigan.gov/DWSRF) under "Related Links." It presents information related to the proposed project, including the alternative selected, rationale for our decision to grant a Categorical Exclusion, and other pertinent information. A map showing the location of the proposed project is also included.

The attachment provides information and allows appropriate federal cross-cutter agencies and state agencies an opportunity to submit information that may impact EGLE's decision prior to its effective date. Significant issues raised by these agencies could result in EGLE staff preparing a full Environmental Assessment.

**WHERE DO I SUBMIT COMMENTS?**

Any comments regarding this decision should be submitted to:

Mr. Lance Wood, Project Manager  
Water Infrastructure Financing Section  
Finance Division  
Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy  
P.O. Box 30457  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7957

**EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE EGLE DECISION ON THE CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION**

Absent comments that introduce significant information contrary to EGLE's final determination, the Categorical Exclusion will become effective upon conclusion of the 30-day comment period.

Questions regarding this project can be directed to Mr. Lance Wood, Project Manager, Water Infrastructure Financing Section, Finance Division, by phone at 517-388-5780, by email at WoodL8@Michigan.gov, or by mail at EGLE, P.O. Box 30457, Lansing, Michigan, 48909-7957; or you may contact me at the aforementioned address. Your interest in this process is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

*Kelly m Green*

Kelly Green, Administrator  
Water Infrastructure Financing Section  
Financing Division  
517-284-5433

Attachment

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY**  
**Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)**  
**City of Coldwater, Branch County**  
**Categorical Exclusion**  
**March 2022**

**PROJECT IDENTIFICATION**

**Applicant:** City of Coldwater

**Authorized Representative:** Brian Musselman  
Water Resource Recovery Facility Superintendent

**Address:** 1 Grand Street  
Coldwater, Michigan 49036

**Project Number** 7567-01

**PROJECT OVERVIEW**

The city of Coldwater (Coldwater) is located in Branch County and has a land area of approximately 8 square miles. Coldwater has a residential population of just over 13,000 according to the 2020 United States Census Bureau yearly estimates. The service population is expected to remain relatively constant and thus drinking water demand is not anticipated to change significantly in the next 20 years.

Coldwater is applying for a DWSRF loan administered by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) for the replacement of lead service lines (LSLs). As a disadvantaged community undertaking lead service line replacement (LSLR), Coldwater is eligible to receive Water Infrastructure Fund Transfer Act (WIFTA) funding through the DWSRF loan, which can provide up to 100 percent principal forgiveness for construction activities related to LSLR not to exceed on average \$5,000 per replacement. Approximately 815 LSL's will be replaced as part of this project.

The total estimated construction cost of the LSLR project is \$3,000,000. The remainder of the project costs will be for the project design, construction engineering, bond counsel, financial service fees, and legal and administrative expenses which will be paid for by Coldwater with cash on hand. As a result, the LSLR project will occur with no additional rate increase to the system customers.

**EXISTING SYSTEM**

The Coldwater Board of Public Utilities (CBPU) water supply consists of four wells, all of which are located on the southern end of Coldwater around the waterworks park to the south of the water treatment plant (WTP). The WTP is a regional waterworks system supplying water to Coldwater along with parts of Coldwater Township. The current wells have a total capacity of 13.04 million gallons per day (MGD) and a firm capacity of 8.73 MGD.

Raw water pumped from groundwater supply wells enters the WTP, which is an iron and manganese removal plant with an original design treatment capacity of 6.6 MGD. The iron and manganese are oxidized through a combination of draft aeration, detention, and chemical oxidation with chlorine and potassium permanganate. After aeration and chemical oxidation, the water flows to four conventional gravity filters. Typically, two of the four filters are backwashed to the sanitary sewer each day. After filtration, additional chlorine can be added to the water to

reach the desired disinfectant residual before the water enters the clear well and is pumped to the distribution system. Fluoride is added to the post-filter water for dental hygiene, and fluoride overfeed protection is adequate. Phosphate is applied to the filtered water for corrosion control and iron and manganese sequestration. A natural gas generator is available to supply power to the wells and the WTP.

Treated water from the WTP is stored in the onsite storage tank and is pumped into the distribution system by the WTP's high service pumps (HSPs). The HSPs pump out of the WTP clear well which is divided in two halves for maintenance and reliability. Variable frequency drives were added to all four pumps. The HSPs have a current total capacity of 7.92 MGD and a firm capacity of 5.87 MGD.

The water distribution system includes over 86 miles of water mains, primarily made of cast iron and ductile iron ranging in size from 4-inches to 16-inches in diameter. There are over 4,200 total services connected to the system; around 89 percent of the connections are residential, and 11 percent are non-residential, including industrial, commercial, institutional, and governmental users. Approximately 30 percent of the water main was constructed pre-1900, 30 percent was constructed from 1900-1980, 23 percent was constructed in 1980-1990, and the remaining 17 percent was constructed from 1990 to present day. There are over 675 publicly owned hydrants in the distribution system and over 2,220 valves for isolating water mains for service and repair.

There are two booster pumping station that serve the east side high-pressure district. The Sauk River booster station was constructed in 2009 to improve pressure and fire flow in the east side of the distribution system. The Seeley Street booster station was constructed in 2017 to expand service, capacity, and fire protection in the east side high-pressure district. The booster stations are controlled based on the water level in the Willowbrook Road elevated tank. The pump operation sequence alternates between the two booster stations each time a new pump is called to turn on. Pressure reducing valves are installed to allow reverse flow through each of the stations if necessary. In case of emergencies in the main pressure district, storage in the east high-pressure district can be utilized to supplement the water demands and maintain pressure in the system. Both booster pump stations are equipped with natural gas generators to power the full load of the booster stations.

The CBPU owns and operates three elevated storage tanks and one underground storage tank. Two elevated tanks and the underground storage tank are associated with the main pressure district and one elevated tank is associated with the east side high-pressure district. The underground storage tank consists of the WTP reservoir and clear well. Overall, the Bishop and Garfield tanks are currently in good condition and can likely continue to be used for years to come with regular maintenance and periodic coating replacements. The CBPU currently has a total of 2.84 million gallons of available storage across the distribution system.

## **NEED FOR PROJECT**

Approximately 1,295 LSLs still exist in older parts of the Coldwater distribution system. In 2018 Michigan's Lead and Copper Rule was revised, requiring all LSLs, and galvanized lines that are either currently or were historically connected to lead, be replaced within 20 years. LSLR will consist of the entire service line from the water main to the water meter or 18-inches within the house or structure, public side replacement from the water main to the curb stop, and private side replacement from the curb stop to the water meter. All replacements will be constructed with copper pipe and water service cannot be restored unless lead pipes have been removed from the entire water line.

## **PROPOSED PROJECT**

There are approximately 1,295 LSLs in the project area. LSL removal and installation of new copper services will be conducted by city staff. Replacements in the proposed project area (figure 1) will continue to be made until the \$3,000,000 allotment under the WIFTA disadvantaged community LSLR program is depleted. CBPU will be self-performing the LSLR and is estimated to be able to replace approximately 815 LSLs in this project. Construction is expected to start in July of 2022 with a completion date of July of 2025. Prior to construction, project signs will be posted in the project area and letters will be sent to property owners detailing the project. Property owners will be notified in advance about the proposed project and anticipated water service interruption by door hangers, flyers, and/or a physical visit to the property. Information will also be available on CPBU's website throughout the project and follow-up communications will be sent if necessary.

Determination of LSLs selected for replacement as part of this project will be coordinated with other projects in the distribution system. Many of the LSLs are connected to cast iron water mains that are targeted for replacement. LSLR will take place in areas with water main replacement or other utility and road reconstruction at the same time to minimize impacts to residents and spend money efficiently. Washington and Perkins Streets have been identified as areas planned for water main replacement as well as areas with LSLs. Coldwater will be concurrently working to replace oversized and outdated water mains as a separate, non-DWSRF project. All projects will occur in the public right-of-way currently used for utilities.

## **EXISTING ENVIRONMENT AND POTENTIAL IMPACTS**

### **Construction Impacts**

Construction of the project will result in short-term impacts such as noise, dust, traffic disruption, and temporary service disruption in the project area. Access to driveways will be maintained to the greatest extent possible. Construction will be within the existing public right-of-way, which has been previously disturbed and is used for roads and utilities, as well as on private property typically on manicured lawns. Therefore, no adverse impacts to agricultural, environmental, historical, cultural, or threatened and endangered species are expected. Construction related impacts to air quality will be mitigated by limiting construction activities to normal working hours.

### **Surface Water Quality Impacts**

It is unlikely that the proposed construction will have any direct or indirect impacts on surface water or groundwater. There is the possibility of proposed work taking place in a designated floodplain or wetland depending on the location of LSLs. If necessary, permits will be acquired for any work taking place in floodplains. Since there is no projected impact to surface topography, there are no expected impacts on the environment.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

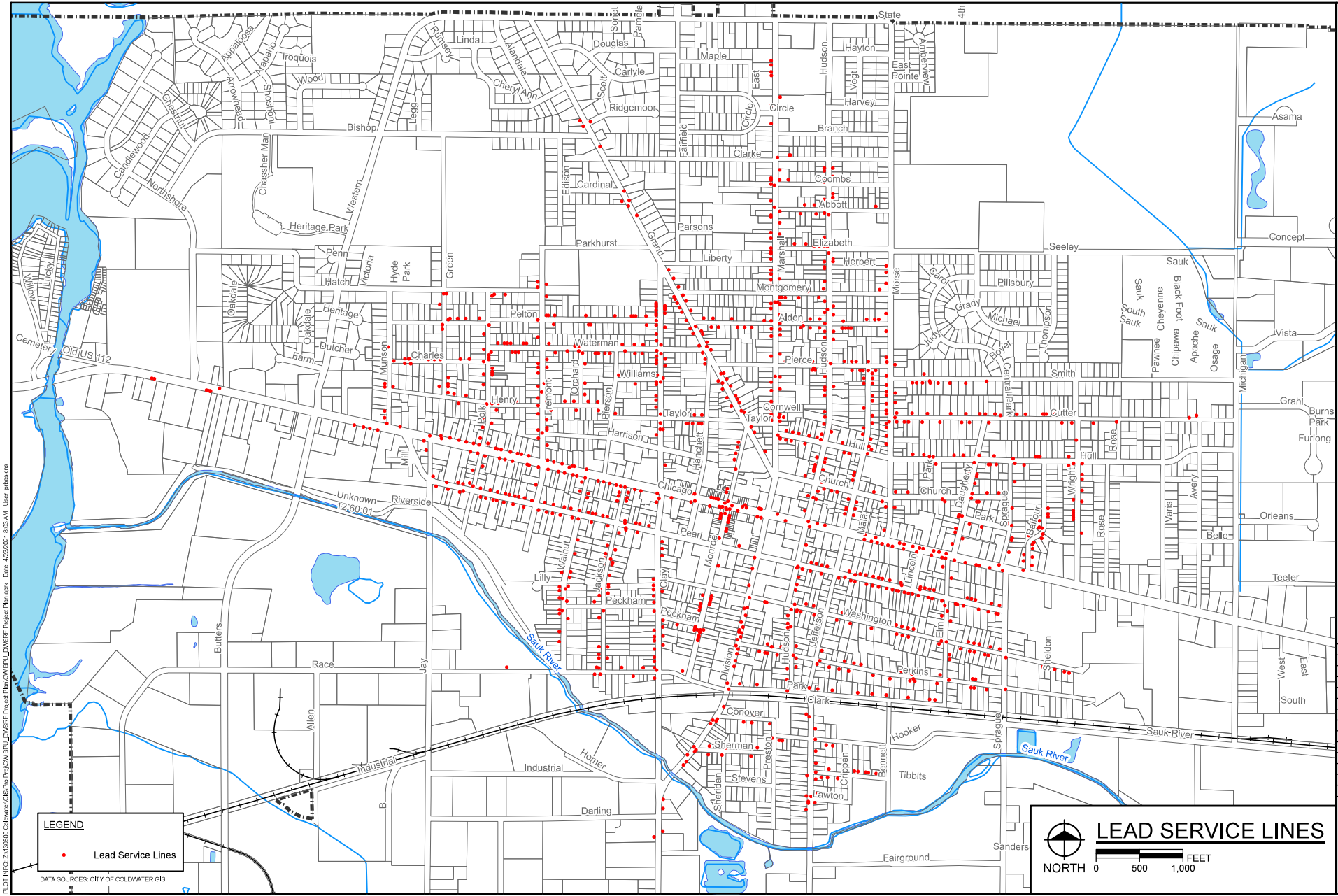
A public hearing to discuss the proposed project was held at 5:30 pm on June 14, 2021, on Zoom. The hearing was advertised on May 7, 2021, in *The Daily Reporter*, 38 days prior to the public hearing, and the project plan was available for viewing online and at the Coldwater City Hall. There were no public comments or questions received during the comment period. A resolution adopting the project plan and implementation of the selected alternative was unanimously approved by the Coldwater City Council on June 14, 2021.

## **RATIONALE FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION**

In accordance with Part 54, Safe Drinking Water Assistance, of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, Section 5408(5) specifies criteria that must be met to grant a Categorical Exclusion from further environmental review activity to a proposed DWSRF assisted project. EGLE staff has carefully reviewed the Coldwater LSLR project and related documents and has determined that no significant adverse impacts are anticipated by project implementation.

Questions regarding this Categorical Exclusion should be directed to:

Mr. Lance Wood, Project Manager  
Water Infrastructure Financing Section  
Finance Division  
Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy  
P.O. Box 30457  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-4957  
Telephone: 517-388-5780  
E-Mail: [WoodL8@michigan.gov](mailto:WoodL8@michigan.gov)



PLOT INFO: Z:\132020 Coldwater\GIS\Map\BPU\_DWSRF Project Plan\BPU\_DWSRF Project Plan.aprx Date: 4/23/2021 8:03 AM User: pfranklin

**LEGEND**

• Lead Service Lines

DATA SOURCES: CITY OF COLDWATER GIS.

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Hard copy is intended to be 11"x17" when plotted. Scale(s) indicated and graphic quality may not be accurate for any other size.

**City of Coldwater Board of Public Utilities**

Branch County, Michigan

**Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Project Plan**

PROJECT NO.  
210382

FIGURE NO.  
**1**